General Assembly
Fifty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
11 January 2005

English

Third Committee

Summary records of the 1st to 50th meetings
Held at Headquarters, New York, from 16 September to 26 November 1997

Corrigendum

This corrigendum contains delegation and Secretariat corrections to the summary records of the meetings held by the Third Committee during the fifty-second session (A/C.3/52/SR.1-50).

With the issuance of this corrigendum, the records of the above-mentioned meetings are to be considered final.

28th meeting

Paragraphs 34 to 37 should read

34. **Mr. Rogov** (Russian Federation) said that the rapidity with which human civilization was advancing could be seen in the globalization process. Faced with the unprecedented speed of those changes, many sought refuge in the ethnic and cultural values of the past by rejecting everything alien or difficult to understand and cultivating a sense of national superiority, thereby creating fertile ground for contemporary forms of racism. The nature of racism was changing, and it was being manifested in new forms and aspects. The international community should demonstrate resolve and conviction, and put an end to discrimination against national minorities and the violation of their rights, arbitrary deprivation of citizenship and political ethnocentrism. If the rights of national minorities were not effectively guaranteed, it would be impossible to eradicate racism. The issue of minorities should therefore be an essential part of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It was important that the situation of minorities should be considered from a global perspective, based on clear evaluation criteria such as income indicators, degree of social protection, access to civil service posts and participation in the political process.

35. It was essential for universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to be achieved by 2000, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights. The Russian Federation hoped that there would be an increase in the number of States parties that had made the declaration provided for in article 14, paragraph 1, of the Convention. His delegation supported the idea of holding a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance by 2001. In the preparatory process, confrontation, division into regional groups and fruitless polemics should be avoided.

36. With regard to agenda item 111, the Russian Federation believed that, because the transition from a bipolar world to a multipolar system was so complex, it was necessary to create conditions to stabilize that process. One such stabilizing factor would be an interpretation of the right to self-determination that released its creative potential while ensuring that crises and conflicts in multinational States did not develop and spread. Such contemporary conflicts could be resolved by preserving the territorial integrity of multinational States while, at the same time, granting the broadest possible rights to minorities. The 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations included the principle, which had subsequently found confirmation in many international documents, that the right to self-determination should not be understood as authorizing or promoting any action aimed at destroying or damaging the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States that acted in accordance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and were therefore possessed of a Government representing the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction as to race, creed or colour. That principle had not lost its validity.

37. The democratic exercise of the right to self-determination within a multinational State meant the promotion of cultural pluralism through the decentralization of government. In 1994 the Russian Federation had enacted an unprecedented constitutional instrument: a bilateral agreement with Tatarstan on the delimitation of authority between the federal organs of power and those of a Federation member. To date, 37 such agreements had been signed. The agreements helped to govern relations in half the country's territory, where more than 50 per cent of the population lived. As President Yeltsin had stated, the "delimitation agreements" were making an effective contribution to the unification and strengthening of the federal State. The processes of democratizing and transforming State structures were often exposed to the risk that the right to self-determination might be usurped by centrifugal and extremist forces. In practice, that meant that self-determination would be replaced by an aggressive separatism. The international community should condemn separatism in clear and unequivocal terms.

37th meeting

Paragraph 33 should read

33. **Mr. Hamida** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, because of the ambiguous nature of paragraph 2 (*e*) of draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.15/Rev.1, which concerned the right of women to own land and to inheritance, he would like to affirm that a woman's right to own land and to inheritance was guaranteed in his country, as it was a Muslim country and had been for about 1400 years. However, the distribution of inheritance among all inheritors, male and female, including the wife or husband and children, was not based on gender alone. It was specified, and precisely so, by the Muslim Shariah, which cannot be changed by temporal laws, for no human law which contradicts divine law should be obeyed. Therefore, his understanding of the paragraph was that it affirmed a woman's right to inheritance and that determining the share of the inheritance differed from country to country in accordance with the laws, beliefs and religions of each.

48th meeting

Paragraph 80 should read

80. **Mr. Al-Hariri** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his country saw what was going on around it – the military pacts in the region aimed at destabilizing the region. Some parties to those pacts were trying to divert attention from the risks such pacts posed to the area, under the pretext of combating terrorism. In reality, States must not export their internal problems to neighbouring States under the pretext of combating terrorism and based on unfounded accusations.

49th meeting

Paragraph 2, line 12

For deplores *read* categorically deplores

Paragraph 7, lines 6 and 7

For Paragraph 8 would be replaced by the following new paragraph: *read* After paragraph 8, a new paragraph would be inserted reading: